

REMARKS

Claims 29-31 and 35-36 are pending in this application. No new matter has been inserted into this application.

In the Office Action of December 23, 2008, the Examiner has divided the claims into two (2) groups: Group I claims 20-22, drawn to a screening method to identify a gene regulating the differentiation from stem cells into natural killer cells; and Group II claims 23-34, drawn to a method of differentiating a stem cell into a natural killer cell, or differentiating a premature natural killer cell into a natural killer cell, comprising administering an effective amount of one or more genes.

Applicants traverse this requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are earnestly requested.

Applicants submit that there is not an undue burden placed upon the Examiner to search and consider all of the claims.

However, in order to be responsive to the outstanding Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group II claims 23-34, drawn to a method of differentiating a stem cell into a natural killer cell, or differentiating a premature natural killer cell into a natural killer cell, comprising administering an effective amount of one or more genes, for prosecution on the merits, with traverse.

In addition to the above-mentioned group restriction, the Examiner has required election of a species. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are earnestly requested. Applicants note that the genes of claim 29 have common activity because the function of genes is related to differentiating pNK cell to mNK cell and furthermore the of genes of claim 29 hereafter are not known to be agents for differentiating premature NK cell to mature NK cell. Therefore, claim 29 can be considered as having a special technical feature that unifies

them. Applicants submit that there is not an undue burden placed upon the Examiner to search and consider claim 29.

However, in order to be responsive to the election of species requirement, the Ferritin H chain (BC 012314) species is elected for initial examination on the merits with traverse.

Accordingly, early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge JHK Law's Deposit Account No. **502486** for any fees required under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that are not covered, in whole or in part, by a check enclosed herewith and to credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. **502486**.

Respectfully submitted,

JHK Law

Dated: January 19, 2009

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